

Message Text

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53

ACTION OIC-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

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R 140930Z AUG 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 557

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 788

REF: STATE 158167

1. USLO SUPPORTS ADOPTION OF A FLEXIBLE INVITATION FORMULA THROUGH COMBINATION OF OPTIONS D AND B. OPTION D-- INVITATION TO EITHER PEKING OR TAIPEI BASED ON THE AD HOC MERITS OF EACH CASE -- SEEMS WELL SUITED TO THE PURPOSEFUL AMBIGUITY WHICH IS INHERENT IN OUR CHINA POLICY AT THIS STAGE. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT IN MOST CASES U.S. JUDGMENT OF THE IMPORT, POTENTIAL CHINESE CONTRIBUTION, U.S. INTERESTS AND ANTICIPATED RESULT OF A GIVEN CONFERENCE WILL RESULT IN AN INVITATION TO PEKING. ALTHOUGH OPTION B IS UNSUITABLE AS A GENERAL POLICY, IN CERTAIN CASES OUR PURPOSES MAY BEST BE SERVED BY INVITING NEITHER.

2. INVITING BOTH (OPTION A) WOULD RESULT IN PEKING'S DECLINING, ACCOMPANIED BY THE USUAL SOUR REFERENCES TO THE "CHIANG CLIQUE", TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP. LIKE THE DEPARTMENT, WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY INFORMING THE NON-INVITED PARTY (OR PARTIES IF NEITHER INVITED). WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE READY TO SUPPLY A RATIONALE IF ASKED.

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3. SPECIFICALLY, AS FAR AS THE INTERNATIONAL WILLS

CONFERENCE IS INVOLVED, WE SEE MERIT IN INVITING NEITHER.
THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE AMERICAN OR OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS
IN THE PRC IS TINY. IT IS LIKELY TO GROW, BUT NOT
TO THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPORTANT
FOR THE PRC TO BE A PARTY TO A CONVENTION ON INTER-
NATIONALS WILLS. AN INVITATION TO TAIPEI, WHERE
ADHERENCE TO SUCH A CONVENTION MIGHT HAVE marginally
MORE PRACTICAL VALUE, WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY PEKING
AND AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP ADVERSELY.

4. IN SUM, THIS PARTICULAR CONFERENCE, WHILE OBVIOUSLY
VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WITH LARGE NUMBERS
OF EACH OTHERS FOREIGN NATIONALS LIVING AND DYING IN
EACH OTHERS TERRITORIES, IS NOT RELEVANT ENOUGH FROM
THE CHINESE STANDPOINT TO AGONIZE OVER WHICH GOVERN-
MENT TO INVITE. WE CAN INVITE NEITHER AND HAVE A
REASONABLE ANSWER IF EVER ASKED WHY.
BRUCE

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NNN

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